

VOP ACTION ALERT!

ARIZONA STATE BUDGET

A message from SVdP Diocesan Council President, Steve Jenkins, has been sent to all members of the Arizona Legislature and Governor Napolitano urging support in these four areas:

Low Income Healthcare for Children

- Re-establish KidsCare contracting with schools and community organizations to reach the over 100,000 uninsured Arizona children who are eligible for this 3:1 federal matching program.
- Expand the eligibility levels of KidsCare, so that parents without a work-related healthcare option can provide healthcare for their children
- Expand KidsCare healthcare coverage to include pregnant mothers.

Subsidized Child Care for Working Poor Families

- Institute a market survey of childcare assistance rates every two years and pay up to 75% of that survey.
- Appropriate funding to align rates paid with survey results.

Housing/Homelessness/Utility Assistance

- Support legislation creating escrow trust accounts with 50% of the interest earned placed in the State Housing Trust Fund.
- Appropriate \$1.5 million for services for homeless families.
- Appropriate \$.5 million for the State Utility Assistance Fund.

Arizona Charitable Tax Credit

- Remove the confusing baseline year requirement in the current law to help qualified faith-based and non-profit organizations serve the working poor.

+++++

VOP ACTION ALERT!

Please help the poor of our state by taking time to either call or e-mail the following message to your State senator and representatives:

>>I am a member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and a constituent. I work directly with Arizona's poor. Please include the following in Arizona's budget:

- *Fund KidsCare outreach and expanded healthcare coverage for low income children and pregnant moms.*
- *Fund subsidized childcare assistance based on a current rate survey.*
- *Support funding for services to homeless families, emergency utility assistance and the State Housing Trust Fund.*
- *Please remove the "baseline year" from the AZ Charitable Tax Credit so that it will work like the education tax credit.*

+++++

There are two easy ways you can find your State senator and representatives!

By phone:

Call the AZ Senate Information Desk at (602) 926-3559

Call the AZ House Information Desk at (602) 926-4221

Online: Go to www.azleg.state.az.us Click on "How do I find my Legislators?"